

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A terminal comprising:
data transfer circuitry capable of at least one of transferring data and receiving
5 data;
tactile circuitry capable of measuring at least one condition of a user; and
at least one conductor alternately coupled to both the data transfer circuitry and
the tactile circuitry, the at least one conductor being capable of communicating with the
data transfer circuitry to function as an antenna, and capable of alternately
10 communicating with the tactile circuitry to function as a tactile interface.

2. A terminal according to Claim 1 further comprising:
switching logic coupled to the tactile circuitry, data transfer circuitry and at least
one conductor, wherein the switching logic is capable of operating to permit the data
15 transfer circuitry to communicate with the at least one conductor functioning as an
antenna, or permit the tactile circuitry to communicate with the at least one conductor
functioning as a tactile interface.

3. A terminal according to Claim 1 further comprising:
20 a controller coupled to the switching logic and capable of controlling operation of
the switching logic.

4. A terminal according to Claim 3, wherein the controller is capable of
controlling the switching logic to permit the tactile circuitry to communicate with the at
25 least one conductor functioning as a tactile interface when the tactile circuitry is set to
operate.

5. A terminal according to Claim 4, wherein the controller is capable of
determining when the tactile circuitry is set to operate based upon at least one of user
30 input and a context of at least one of the terminal and user.

6. A terminal according to Claim 5, wherein the controller is further capable of determining the context of at least one of the terminal and user based upon at least one of data representative of a change in a radio frequency field proximate the conductors, and data representative of a change in capacitance across at least one pair of conductors.

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7. A terminal according to Claim 1 further comprising:
a housing for supporting the at least one conductor.

8. A terminal according to Claim 1, wherein the tactile circuitry is capable of
10 communicating monitoring signals to a portion of the user's body via the at least one conductor operating as a tactile interface such that at least one condition of the user is capable of being computed in response to communication of the monitoring signals.

9. A terminal according to Claim 8, wherein the tactile circuitry is capable of
15 communicating monitoring signals to a portion of the user's body such that a resistance to the communication of the monitoring signals is capable of being computed, and such that at least one parameter associated with the user's body fat is capable of being computed based upon the resistance.

20 10. A terminal according to Claim 9, wherein the at least one parameter comprises a percent body fat.

11. A terminal according to Claim 9, wherein the at least one parameter comprises at least one of a fat mass and a total body water.

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12. A terminal according to Claim 8, wherein the tactile circuitry is capable of communicating monitoring signals comprising one of sinusoidal current and voltage signals.

13. A terminal according to Claim 8, wherein the tactile circuitry is capable of communicating monitoring signals comprising one of square wave current and voltage signals.

5 14. A terminal according to Claim 8, wherein the tactile circuitry is capable of communicating monitoring signals comprising one of a current and voltage signal having a frequency of at least 50 kHz.

10 15. A terminal according to Claim 8, wherein the tactile circuitry is capable of communicating monitoring signals comprising a current signal having an amperage less than 1 mA.

15 16. A terminal according to Claim 8, wherein the tactile circuitry is capable of maintaining the monitoring signals at one of a substantially constant amperage and voltage.

17. A method of monitoring at least one condition of a user, the method comprising:

20 providing a terminal comprising data transfer circuitry, tactile circuitry, and at least one conductor alternately coupled to the data transfer circuitry and the tactile circuitry, the at least one conductor being capable of alternately functioning as an antenna or a tactile interface; and

25 switching operation of the at least one conductor to function as a tactile interface to thereby permit the tactile circuitry to communicate with the at least one conductor functioning as a tactile interface to measure at least one condition of the user.

30 18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein switching operation comprises switching operation of the at least one conductor to function as a tactile interface when the tactile circuitry is set to operate.

19. A method according to Claim 18 further comprising:
determining when the tactile circuitry is set to operate based upon at least one of
user input and a context of at least one of the terminal and user.

5 20. A method according to Claim 19, wherein determining when the tactile
circuitry is set to operate based upon a context comprises determining the context of at
least one of the terminal and user based upon at least one of data representative of a
change in a radio frequency field proximate the conductors, and data representative of a
change in capacitance across at least one pair of conductors.

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21. A method according to Claim 17, wherein providing a terminal comprises
providing a terminal further comprising a housing for supporting the at least one
conductor.

15 22. A method according to Claim 17 further comprising:
communicating monitoring signals from the tactile circuitry to a portion of the
user's body via the at least one conductor operating as a tactile interface; and
computing at least one condition of the user in response to communication of the
monitoring signals.

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23. A method according to Claim 22 further comprising:
computing a resistance to the communication of the monitoring signals,
wherein computing at least one condition comprises computing at least one
parameter associated with the user's body fat based upon the resistance.

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24. A method according to Claim 23, wherein computing at least one
parameter comprises computing a percent body fat.

25. A method according to Claim 23, wherein computing at least one
30 parameter comprises computing at least one of a fat mass and a total body water.

26. A method according to Claim 22, wherein communicating monitoring signals comprises communicating monitoring signals comprising one of sinusoidal current and voltage signals.

5 27. A method according to Claim 22, wherein communicating monitoring signals comprises communicating monitoring signals comprising one of square wave current and voltage signals.

28. A method according to Claim 22, wherein communicating monitoring
10 signals comprises communicating monitoring signals comprising one of a current and voltage signal having a frequency of at least 50 kHz.

29. A method according to Claim 22, wherein communicating monitoring
15 signals comprises communicating monitoring signals comprising a current signal having an amperage less than 1 mA.

30. A method according to Claim 22, wherein communicating monitoring
20 signals further comprises maintaining the monitoring signals at one of a substantially constant amperage and voltage.

31. A computer program product for monitoring at least one condition of a user, the computer program product adapted to operate within a terminal comprising data transfer circuitry, tactile circuitry, and at least one conductor alternately coupled to the data transfer circuitry and the tactile circuitry, the at least one conductor being capable of
25 alternately functioning as an antenna or a tactile interface, wherein the computer program product comprises at least one computer-readable storage medium having computer-readable program code portions stored therein, the computer-readable program code portions comprising:

a first executable portion for switching operation of the at least one conductor to
30 function as a tactile interface to thereby permit the tactile circuitry to communicate with

the at least one conductor functioning as a tactile interface to measure at least one condition of the user.

32. A computer program product according to Claim 31, wherein the first
5 executable portion is adapted to switch operation of the at least one conductor to function as a tactile interface when the tactile circuitry is set to operate.

33. A computer program product according to Claim 32 further comprising:
a second executable portion for determining when the tactile circuitry is set to
10 operate based upon at least one of user input and a context of at least one of the terminal and user.

34. A computer program product according to Claim 33, wherein the second
executable portion is adapted to determine the context of at least one of the terminal and
15 user based upon at least one of data representative of a change in a radio frequency field proximate the conductors, and data representative of a change in capacitance across at least one pair of conductors.

35. A computer program product according to Claim 31 further comprising:
20 a second executable portion for controlling the tactile circuitry to communicate monitoring signals to a portion of the user's body via the at least one conductor operating as a tactile interface; and
a third executable portion for computing at least one condition of the user in response to communication of the monitoring signals.

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36. A computer program product according to Claim 35 further comprising:
a fourth executable portion for computing a resistance to the communication of
the monitoring signals,
wherein the third executable portion is adapted to compute at least one parameter
30 associated with the user's body fat based upon the resistance.

37. A computer program product according to Claim 36, wherein the third executable portion is adapted to compute a percent body fat.

5 38. A computer program product according to Claim 36, wherein the third executable portion is adapted to compute at least one of a fat mass and a total body water.

39. A computer program product according to Claim 35, wherein the second executable portion is adapted to control the tactile circuitry to communicate monitoring signals comprising one of sinusoidal current and voltage signals.

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40. A computer program product according to Claim 35, wherein the second executable portion is adapted to control the tactile circuitry to communicate monitoring signals comprising one of square wave current and voltage signals.

15 41. A computer program product according to Claim 35, wherein the second executable portion is adapted to control the tactile circuitry to communicate monitoring signals comprising one of a current and voltage signal having a frequency of at least 50 kHz.

20 42. A computer program product according to Claim 35, wherein the second executable portion is adapted to control the tactile circuitry to communicate monitoring signals comprising a current signal having an amperage less than 1 mA.

25 43. A computer program product according to Claim 35, wherein the second executable portion is adapted to further control the tactile circuitry to maintain the monitoring signals at one of a substantially constant amperage and voltage.